101st YEAR, NO. 335 Chicago News Wires and AP

1/12/68

# ATTACK, JFK PROBE NOT LINKED, BELIEF

## Beaten by 2 Men Here, Says DA's Witness

A witness in District Attorney Jim Garrison's Kennedy assassination probe said Thursday he does not think an attack on him by two Negroes in his hotel room had anything to do with his testifying before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury.

**James Hicks, a 29-year-old civil service employe of Enid, Okla., said he was beaten up earlier Thursday by two men who entered his room at the Fontainebleau Motor Hotel while he was asleep. He said he was thrown through a glass door leading to a balcony outside his sixth-floor room.**

—AP WIREPHOTO.
**LAWRENCE HOWARD JR.**
**Receives Garrison subpena.**

Meanwhile, in Los Angeles, Calif., a subpena was served Thursday on Lawrence Howard Jr., 32, of nearby El Monte, ordering him to appear before the Orleans jury.

A spokesman for the Los Angeles County DA's office, which served the subpena, said Howard was ordered to appear in Los Angeles County Superior Court Tuesday to show cause why he should not have to testify in New Orleans.

### TWO OTHERS

The subpena was issued by Garrison's office Dec. 29, along with others for Loran E. Hall of Kernville, Calif., and Thomas Beckham of Omaha, Neb., who have both been ordered to appear before the Orleans body Feb. 1 and 2.

Hicks, in an interview prior to a session with the grand jury, said he told police that earlier he had met two Negroes he knew and had drinks with them. He said he later invited them to his room for more drinks.

—Photo by The Times-Picayune.
**JAMES HICKS**
**Witness attacked in hotel room.**

**After they left, he went to bed, he said, and two other Negroes entered his room and beat him up, possibly in a burglary attempt in Hicks' opinion.**

When Hicks appeared at the press conference in Garrison's office, he had scratch marks on his forehead and side of his face.

He was subpenaed to testify before the grand jury because he said he was present in Dallas on the motorcade route and

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# Witness Doubts Beating Linked to Probe

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witnessed the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

FOUR SHOTS—HICKS

Hicks said Thursday he thinks his testimony will "throw some light" on the events of that day, Nov. 22, 1963, when Hicks, a surveyor, was living in Dallas and "looking for work."

Here's his account of what happened:

"It's really hard to say what happened because it happened so fast, but I do remember the President being shot and I knew he was shot when it happened because I saw his whole head explode. It didn't look like one shot . . . his whole head exploded . . . this meant to me that his head was struck by more than one bullet."

**Hicks said he heard four shots, and one bullet passed over his head and struck a traffic caution sign, which he said was removed almost immediately after the assassination. He said as far as he knows it was never mentioned in the Warren Commission report.**

Hicks said the sign was removed by men "I assumed to be members of the Dallas police force. I assumed they would use it as evidence." He said he gave his name to a patrolman that day but was never called to testify before the Warren Commission.

Garrison has photographs showing him at the scene, said Hicks.

Hicks said he has received a number of crank calls, including one threatening his wife and son if he doesn't keep his mouth shut. The string of events has made him very nervous, he said

FIND DOOR SHATTERED

Police said they found the glass door of Hicks' room shattered when they were called to investigate.

Security officer Freddie Rawles told police he received a call from the front office shortly before 1 a.m. to investigate "a disturbance in room 650."

Rawles said he met two Negroes coming from an elevator and, upon questioning, they said they had "been to see a party in room 650." Both men produced identification cards but Rawles said he failed to make a note of the identifications.

Police said they reported the incident to Sgt. Louis Ivon, chief investigator for Garrison's office, and Ivon was investigating.

In Los Angeles, Howard, who says he is an unemployed typesetter-welder, said he was vacationing near Durango, N. M., when the subpena was issued by Garrison. He denied any knowledge of a conspiracy in Kennedy's death.

Garrison claims Howard was registered in the Dallas, Tex., Young Men's Christian Assn. quarters until the day of the assassination. Howard said he was working in Los Angeles that day and had never registered at the YMCA.

'CLEARED BY FBI'

Howard added he gave a statement to the FBI and "as far as they were concerned I was cleared." He added, "There is no information at all I can give that would in any way uncover anything."

Howard said he admired and respected Kennedy, although he disagreed with certain policies of his administration, which he did not elaborate on.

In Bakersfield, Kern County Superior Court Judge P. R. Borton Wednesday delayed for two weeks a decision on Garrison's requested order for Hall to appear before the grand jury. The judge ordered Hall's attorney and the county DA's office to urge Garrison to come to Bakersfield to take Hall's deposition.

New Orleans authorities sent checks for $395 and $405 to pay for Howard's and Hall's traveling expenses.